

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

IN RECOGNITION OF JOE PLASKAS
ON HIS INDUCTION INTO THE
NORTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVER-
SITY HALL OF FAME

HON. J. DENNIS HASTERT

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 12, 2005

Mr. HASTERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Joe Plaskas on his upcoming induction into the Northern Illinois University Hall of Fame on October 14, 2005.

A native of Oswego, Illinois, Joe started his athletic career at Oswego High School as a 3-year letter winner in both football and baseball. Joe's love for sports continued after his playing years as a long-time football and baseball coach at Barrington High School in Barrington, Illinois. Through coaching, Joe was able to instill the same values of hard work, dedication and discipline he displayed to the many students he guided as a teacher and coach.

During his college career at Northern Illinois University (NIU), Joe earned eight letters as an outstanding two sport athlete in football and baseball, earning First-Team All-Interstate Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (IAC) honors in both sports.

As a fullback at NIU, Joe powered his way through defenses, leading the Huskies in rushing in the 1958 and 1959 campaigns. In his final season, Joe helped lead the Huskies to a 7-2 record and second place finish in the IAC, earning National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics All-America Honorable Mention and First-Team All-IAC honors. He also earned a place on the Fourth-Team Peoria Journal Star All-State team in 1959.

Currently ranked No. 22 on the all-time NIU rushing list with 1,315 career yards, Joe not only rewrote school records set by Hall of Famers before him, but held that standard for five more seasons until 1964.

On the diamond, Joe performed with equal passion and excellence. At the plate, Joe led the league in batting with a .455 average as a sophomore and won First-Team All-IAC honors as a pitcher.

Once again, congratulations Joe on your many successes on and off the field.

INTRODUCTION OF RESOLUTION
CONDEMNING MEXICO'S
ISSUANCE OF OFFENSIVE
STAMPS

SPEECH OF

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 11, 2005

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my disappointment in the Mexican Government for their decision to issue the Memin Pinguin

stamp. This stamp represents the negative stereotypes and oppression that millions of African Americans have spent so many years fighting against.

President Fox stated that this is an internal issue for Mexico and that Americans cannot understand the cultural representation of this character. However, if this is how President Fox chooses to depict the black population, this is a sad commentary for Mexico.

This is the first black representative to be on a Mexican stamp; and instead of selecting an actual black Mexican that has had historical impact in that country, Mexico chose a cartoon character that's an offensive stereotype.

This move is especially disappointing based on the commitment President Fox has given to anti-discrimination. This stamp is the type of depiction that sets back that movement and perpetuates racial biases that many Mexicans deal with daily. I cannot see how this positively benefits any black Mexican.

The U.S. and Mexico must work together to create mutually beneficial policies. I'm afraid that this stamp may set us back in creating an open dialogue between our two nations. While we are separate countries our paths are intertwined. This stamp is not only insulting to African Americans, but to all Americans who find this type of representation abhorrent. In the name of diplomatic relations, I respectfully ask President Fox to reconsider his decision to distribute these stamps.

IN RECOGNITION OF GENE
SPARLING

HON. MIKE ROSS

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 12, 2005

Mr. ROSS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Gene Sparling of Garland County, Arkansas, who recently rediscovered the ivory-billed woodpecker in the Big Woods area of Arkansas. North America's largest woodpecker, often called the "Lord God Bird," was last spotted in 1944 and thought to be extinct.

Mr. Sparling has sought out wild and natural wonders throughout his life, exploring Mexico's Baja Peninsula, the Rocky Mountains, and Arkansas's own Ozark and Ouachita Mountains. In 2003, Mr. Sparling began exploring Big Woods of Arkansas through the Cache River National Wildlife Refuge by way of kayak and observed the ivory-billed woodpecker.

Since the search began in March 2004, there have been over a dozen sightings of the ivory-billed woodpecker by experts in the Big Woods of Arkansas's Mississippi Delta. The ivory-billed woodpecker, valued for its plumage and sought after by American Indians as magical, has birdwatchers and environmentalists around the world rejoicing.

I am honored to recognize Mr. Sparling, and extend my sincere gratitude for his incredible discovery of the once thought extinct ivory-billed woodpecker. Mr. Sparling is an inspira-

tion to us all, and I consider it a privilege to serve as his United States Congressman in the House of Representatives.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. RANDY NEUGEBAUER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 12, 2005

Mr. NEUGEBAUER. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to return to Washington, DC, in time for votes on Monday, July 11, due to official congressional business in Texas. I testified yesterday, before the Base Realignment and Closure, BRAC, Commission meeting in San Antonio in support of Dyess Air Force Base which is located in my congressional district. As a result, I missed rollcall votes Nos. 363 and 364. Had I been present I would have voted "aye" on both votes:

Rollcall vote No. 363: H. Con. Res. 168—Condemning the Democratic People's Republic of Korea for the abductions and continued captivity of citizens of the Republic of Korea and Japan as acts of terrorism and gross violations of human rights; and

Rollcall vote No. 364: H. Res. 333—Supporting the goals and ideals of a National Weekend of Prayer and Reflection for Darfur, Sudan.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 12, 2005

Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, yesterday I missed rollcall vote Nos. 363 and 364. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye" for both.

REAR ADMIRAL DENNIS DWYER

HON. JOHN P. MURTHA

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 12, 2005

Mr. MURTHA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an outstanding naval officer, Rear Admiral Dennis Dwyer, who hails from Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Admiral Dwyer has served with considerable distinction and dedication for the past 32 years, and I would like to thank him for his service and many contributions to the defense of our great Nation.

On July 29th, RADM Dwyer will retire from the Navy after 32 years of active duty, and will leave command of the Navy's Program Executive Office for Aircraft Carriers here in Washington, DC.

During his tenure as Commander of the Navy's Aircraft Carrier Programs, Admiral

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